**Tuesday, November 14th, 2023 GP-CERT Meeting Minutes:**

**Holtby welcomed everyone and requested that everyone sign one of the attendance sheets on the tables.  He advised that tonight’s meeting, including the educational exercise at the end, should last approximately one hour. Holtby thanked those who had inquired about his wife and gave a quick update – he noted that he will know a lot more after she sees her neurosurgeon and gets updated scans next Monday.**

**Agenda Item – Updates/Plans:**

**Holtby noted that today is Tuesday, November 14th …. Day 166 of the 2023 hurricane season, with 17 days to go. There is a chance of tropical development in the Caribbean this week, but no risk of any impacts in Florida or elsewhere in the continental U.S.  over the next 7-9 days.  After November 15, only around 0.5% of U.S. landfall activity occurs.**

**Holtby then recapped 2023: The 2023 Atlantic hurricane season was one of the most active seasons on record. During 2023, the season produced 30 named (sub)tropical storms, 20 hurricanes and 8 major hurricanes, mainly from a late forming La Niña just 2 months prior to the start of the season. It was also noteworthy that 2023 was marked by a larger-than-average number of storms occurring earlier in the season. Of the eight storms that made landfall, only Harold, Idalia and Ophelia made landfall in the U.S.  Hurricane Idalia was the only one considered a “billion-dollar storm” meaning that more than $1 billion in damages occurred.**

**Most storms this year were referred to as “fish storms” because they posed no risk to land.  Occasionally, ‘fish storms’ may also produce possible dangerous currents along the coast.”**

**The other unprecedented item of note was the rapid intensification of the storms – which give impacted areas much less notice and opportunity to evacuate safely. By way of example, Hurricane Otis made landfall as a Category 5 storm on Oct. 25 in Acapulco. The number of dead or missing from the storm is approximately 100.  Otis stunned the “experts” when its wind speeds increased by 115 mph in a single day before making landfall, intensifying at the second-fastest recorded rate in modern times, according to NOAA.  Otis "was the strongest hurricane in the Eastern Pacific to make landfall in the satellite era."  Holtby noted that this is something all of us will need to look at closely in the future, as it will change how we prepare for potential storms.**

**Holtby also mentioned that GP-CERT volunteer David Elwart, who has a weather station in GP – is moving. Elwart previously provided weather statistics after every major storm from his Basilica Drive weather station. Elwart has asked whether GP-CERT is interested in his weather station, as he is getting a new and updated version when he moves. Holtby noted that he planned to get together with Elwart after Thanksgiving to discuss transitioning the station over to GP-CERT -  including the procedure for linking up the Tempest software. Elwart has generously offered this to us at no cost.  Holtby inquired whether anyone wants to take over the weather station, and if so, to let him know.**

**The second Update item concerned the “The GP Responder”. Holtby noted that we will be publishing our fourteenth issue next month. He thanked those volunteers who are regular contributors, and offered a special thanks to Carole and Jeff Myles who continue to do a fabulous job on the newsletter. He reiterated that the same people are contributing articles and we need some “new contributors” – particularly with David Elwart moving, as he was a regular contributor.  So please consider contributing an article – we are looking for 100-150 words on  anything with a safety or weather focus that would be of interest to the GP community.**

**The third update item on the agenda was Training & Education.**

**Kristi Loret provided an update on education and training, and she discussed the September training class at GP in detail. Future classes will likely be at SCF, as we have space and activity constraints at GP.**

**Richard MacCready then provided a detailed update on new initiatives underway with Sarasota County EOC on the communications front, and an active discussion took place with Steve Phillips on issues that have come up in the past in this area.**

**The fourth Update item was Communications, and Richard MacCready had run a net check-in prior to our meeting, with nine responses from GP-CERT Command Team members and two representatives of the BOD participating.**

**The fifth Update item discussed was Recruitment – which continues to be a huge challenge. Holtby noted that we set up a table at the Gran Paradiso Volunteer Fair that took place on Friday, November 3.  He noted that we spoke with a number of residents and had 12-15 Volunteer Information Forms picked up.  Holtby thanked Kristi and Richard MacCready for helping out at the event.**

**Sal put together the recent GP-CERT shirt order, so if you do not have your shirt – please reach out to him. Hopefully by wearing the shirts we can increase the “visibility” of our team.**

**Holtby advised that we need to come up with new ideas for recruitment, and he welcomed anyone with ideas to contact him. He also suggested that we have a “pot luck” for our January 2024 meeting, as food seems to bring in volunteers.**

**Agenda Item 3 was Q&A and Open Discussion:**

**Holtby noted that we really need to get started on events for next year and to get them on the schedule well in advance – drills, safety days, recruitment events, etc.. He inquired whether anyone willing to help out on a planning committee for next year.**

**Holtby advised that the date for our next meeting is Tuesday, January 9th at 6:30 pm and he asked that everyone put this on their calendar.**

**Agenda Item 4 Teach-back**

**Richard MacCready and Kristi put together Version II of a Triage “teach-back” exercise that was excellent. Volunteers broke up into teams of 2-3 and did triage in a number of different scenarios.  Everyone had very positive feedback on the exercise.**

**Agenda Item 5: Holtby thanked everyone for their attendance tonight.**